SOME

Impartial Obſervations

On the propoſed

AUGMENTATION.

By a COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED IN THE YEAR MDCCLXVIII.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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THE firſt Paragraph in the *Dublin* Article of the Freeman's Journal of the 26th Inſtant, deſcribing the general Terror and Conſternation which is ſaid to have affected the ſeveral Parts of this Kingdom, upon hearing of the propoſed Augmentation of its Military Eſtabliſhment, muſt appear very ſurpriſing to the Inhabitants of this Metropolis, who are under no Terrors at all upon the Occaſion; but, as it happens, the Intelligence is premature, tho' perhaps it may ſoon be too well founded, if the Emiſſaries of Faction ſucceed in miſrepreſenting the Nature and Deſign of this Meaſure, to the honeſt but credulous People of the Kingdom. That it is not hitherto an unpopular Meaſure, I can with ſome Confidence aſſert, as I am lately come out of the Country, where I have heard the Subject diſcuſs'd in all Companies, and in general approved of under certain Reſtrictions; I might ſay *always*, except by ſuch, whoſe Motives of Objection it was eaſy to trace, from their reſpective Intereſts and Connections.

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As every Man in this free Country esteems himself qualified to censure or approve the Conduct of Government, the honest and candid Patriot will be glad to be rightly informed as to those Matters on which he is to frame his Opinion, and when any interesting Business of a publick Nature is depending, will with Attention peruse the Arguments on both Sides of the Question. To such only the following Observations are addressed; which are sufficiently plain and intelligible, and only calculated to prevent the ill Effects of Prejudice, and Misrepresentation.

THE Message delivered by his Majesty's Command to the House of Commons on Tuesday last imports, a Proposal to augment the Military Establishment (which at present consists of 12,000 Men) to 15,235, on account of the Necessities of the publick Service requiring a considerable Part of the National Forces to be employed abroad, and of the Expediency that not less than 12,000 Men should always remain at home, for the Defence and Security of *Ireland*; and his Majesty further declares it to be his Intention that the above Number shall always continue here, except in Case of some extraordinary Emergency.

THE Principles upon which this Proposal is founded are too notoriously true to admit of Contradiction. The new Acquisitions to the Crown of *Great Britain* by the late glorious and successful War, demand a much more numerous Body of Forces for their Defence, than the present Establishments of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* can supply, consistent with their Security at home; and in Consequence of this Necessity, Government has been obliged to borrow (if I may use the Expression) something from the National Defence of these Kingdoms, where the Danger was less pressing and immediate, to secure those Dominions, which were surrounded by foreign Enemies, jealous of our newly acquired Power, and ready to

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take Advantage of any Occaſion when we might be unprepared to repel them.

But tho' the apparent Remoteneſs of the Danger to theſe Kingdoms might be a very juſt Apology for ſuch an Expedient being made uſe of for a ſhort Time, juſt after a Peace was concluded; it would ill become the Wiſdom of Government, to leave us always in ſo precarious a Situation, threatened as we are with an immediate Invaſion from *France*, upon the very firſt Appearances of a Rupture, even before a Declaration of War. In theſe Circumſtances I believe no one will deny that 12,000 effective Men, actually diſciplined and fit for immediate Service, are a very moderate Defence for this extenſive Country againſt ſo formidable an Invader, even tho' the additional Danger from our domeſtick Inſurgents, (of whoſe Diſloyalty we have already had ſome Specimens) were not taken into the Conſideration.

The Expediency therefore of ſome Augmentation of the Forces in *Ireland* muſt be admitted, and the only reaſonable Objections againſt the preſent Propoſal ſeem to be the three following.

First, If the Parliament ſhould conſent to maintain an Army of 15,235 Men upon the Eſtabliſhment, in order to preſerve 12,000 of them at home for our domeſtick Security, how can we be certain that even that Force ſhall remain with us, if Government ſhould think fit to employ a Part of them upon other Service?

Second, Admitting the Danger of our preſent Defenceleſs Situation, is not the additional Expence of the Encreaſe of our Eſtabliſhment, the greater Evil of the two?

Third,

THIRD, May not a ſtanding Army more numerous than we have at preſent be dangerous to our Liberties?

As to the firſt Objection, if there was no Proviſion made againſt it, I ſhould readily allow it to be a very ſolid one. But as his Majeſty has already declared by his Meſſage that 12,000 Men ſhall be kept in *Ireland*, and as we have the additional Security of a *Britiſh* Act of Parliament made this Seſſion, to repeal the 10th of King *William* III. declaring the Expediency of ſuch a Meaſure; we cannot with Reaſon apprehend that the moſt daring Miniſter will venture to act in Oppoſition to ſuch Authorities.

To the ſecond Objection I anſwer, that the Expence of this Augmentation is trifling in Compariſon of the Advantages that attend it; about £. 36,000 annually being the whole Amount. A ſmall Portion of what is generouſly (I will not ſay profuſely) given every Seſſion of Parliament, among the Gentlemen of this Country towards improving their Eſtates, in what are called publick Works, is aſked to ſecure to them the quiet Poſſeſſion of thoſe Eſtates, and to their Tenants, their Liberties, their Properties and their Religion. I cannot omit obſerving that the whole of this Expence (ſmall as it is) need not be an additional Burden upon the Eſtabliſhment, as his Majeſty has already conſented to a Bill, laying a Tax of four Shillings in the Pound upon the Salaries and Penſions of Abſentees, which, it is computed will raiſe £. 26,000 a year; and is a clear Increaſe of ſo much to the publick Revenue, however it may be appropriated. In ſhort, if any Application for a Supply ought to ſtand clear of all Objections as to the Frugality of the Scheme, it is certainly the preſent: A Scheme of Augmentation where no new Officers are to be appointed; no Friends and Dependents to be provided for at the Expence of the Publick; no Crown Favours

yours to be diſtributed, in order to increaſe the Power and Influence of Government; but the whole Addition is intended to conſiſt of able bodied Soldiers.

Were this Plan liable to more Objections on the above Account, it might probably meet with fewer, as ſome of the moſt clamorous Opponents might in that Caſe get ſomething to ſtop their Mouths, and if any Gentleman was diſguſted upon other Accounts, there might be Methods of putting him into a better Temper. But as the Propoſal in its preſent Circumſtances has nothing to recommend it but its real national Utility, it may poſſibly be ſupported only by ſuch as value the publick Intereſt more than their own.

As to the laſt Objection, concerning the ſuppoſed Danger of our Liberties from a ſtanding Army in this Kingdom, I believe few People are ſo weak as to propoſe it ſeriouſly. Whatever may be the Caſe in *Great Britain*, it is otherwiſe in *Ireland*; our Properties and our Lives demand Security here as much as our Liberties; and of two Dangers, that which is the moſt preſſing and urgent requires our Attention before that which is more remote. We cannot ſpare our Proteſtants from our Manufactures in ſufficient Numbers to form a well regulated Militia; and fourſcore Years Experience has taught us that a ſtanding Army recruited in *England*, and commanded by Proteſtant Officers of our own, has hitherto preſerved to us thoſe Bleſſings which we ſtill enjoy, without any Infringement upon our Liberties; of which it is to be obſerved, that thoſe People who have the leaſt to loſe always pretend to be moſt apprehenſive.

If theſe Obſervations are founded in Truth, what are we to think of thoſe Perſons, who are at preſent ſo buſily employed in inflaming the Minds of the People againſt their Government and Repreſentatives,

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to excite, if poſſible, groundleſs Jealouſies and imaginary Terrors. Let us not, in God's Name, be made the Tools of diſappointed Ambition a ſecond Time, by a few People who only laugh at us for our Credulity; let us not be deluded to concur with them, by our Clamours without Doors, in defeating a truly national Meaſure, and in exaſperating the Minds of a loyal and contented People againſt the Government of a Prince, who has ſo recently granted us every Thing that we have aſked, for the Security of our Liberties, and the Improvement of our happy Conſtitution.

April 29th, 1763.

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April 29th, 1768.

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